DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 384 690 UD 030 501

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TITLE Africans in America.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-8225-1952-6
PUB DATE 95
NOTE 88p.
AVAILABLE FROM Lerner Publications Company, 241 First Avenue, N., Minneapolis, MN 55401 (hardback: ISBN-0-8225-1952-6; paperback: ISBN-0-8225-3476-2).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Black Culture; *Black History; Black Power; *Blacks; Black Studies; *Civil Rights; Court Litigation; Economically Disadvantaged; Elementary Secondary Education; *Racial Relations; *Slavery; Social Problems; *United States History
IDENTIFIERS *African Americans

ABSTRACT

This book introduces African-American history and culture to children. The first Africans in America came from many different regions and cultures, but became united in this country by being black, African, and slaves. Once in America, Africans began a long struggle for freedom which still continues. Slavery, the Civil War, emancipation, and the migration to the north are traced. African Americans who arrived in cities with hopes of a better future found that their dreams could not be realized. There were many creative and intellectual gains for African Americans after the first World War, but social and economic opportunities did not keep pace. The aftermath of the Depression and World War II brought some advances, but Jim Crow policies remained. Legal decisions related to education are discussed, notably the Brown v. Board of Education decision of 1954 which marked the modern civil rights era. White backlash, urban unrest, increased black consciousness, and the new struggles within the established power system are outlined. Some noted African Americans are profiled. (SLD)

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